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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Altengrabow Troop Training Area

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To: Army

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GERMANY (Russian Zone)

MILITARY

July

ALTENGRABOW Training Area

1. General:

From 1 Jul 54 onwards, infantry and artillery troops with heavy weapons and vehicles were bivouacking in the woods immediately to the NORTH of the MAGDEBURGERFORTH-DRETZEN road (approx centre of area MR 124 895 1:25000 UTM Grid Sheet 3739). An appreciable number of troops with wine-red/black sbds were seen in the streets of ZIESAR. A police official of ZIESAR warned local inhabitants to keep clear of the woods as an exercise was in progress. These troops had disappeared on 5 Jul 54. Since 4 Jul 54, there has been a noticeable absence of movements and activities.

2. Arrivals and departures:

- (a) 30 Jun 54: Arrived by rail at ALTENGRABOW and moved into the training area in the direction of LAGER III: 10 FLs M 31 on Studebaker chassis and 2 RLs M 13 on ZIS 151 chassis, the latter with VNs B6-60-75 and B6-65-24. These equipments were accompanied by two Workshops vehicles, two field kitchens and 25-30 lorries carrying troops, ammunition and barrack stores.
- (b) 1 Jul 54: At 0900 hrs, departed by road in the direction of LUBARS, 12 x 122 mm Field Guns M31/37 drawn by HD7 tractors; 2 x 152 mm Medium Gun Howitzers M 37 drawn by HD7 tractors; 3 x 8-ton trailers drawn by HD7 tractors, each carrying 35-40 arty troops in FSMO; 2 Workshop vehicles on Studebaker chassis, 3 Studebaker lorries each carrying 15-20 arty ORs in FSMO; 8 GAS 63s each carrying 10-12 ORs in FSMO and one ZIS 5 towing a field kitchen. All VNs were masked.

- (c) 3 Jul 54: At 0800 hrs, despatched by rail from ALTENGRABOW, 6 x 100 mm A/tk guns M 44; 8 Ya 12s; 1 field kitchen and 15 LCVs of various types, VNs masked but the number of one GAS 63 was identified as G9-22-14.

3. (a) NORDLAGER (Barracks List 5001):

- (b) Estimated number of occupants: 4000 all ranks.
- (c) Shoulderboards and insignia: Officers wore gold/red and silver/red and ORs black/red sbds, some with Arty insignia.
- (d) Weapons and equipment: 12 x 152 mm Gun Howitzers M 37;  
 22 x 122 mm Field guns M31/37;  
 Approx 50 S80 tractors.
- (e) Activity: At 0800 hrs on 25 Jun 54, 4 x 122 mm Field guns towed by S80s, moved out in the direction of GIOINA. A captive balloon was raised from the area of ROSENKRUG. Firing took place during the day and again after 2100 hrs.
- (f) An estimated 2500 troops belong to the unit known locally as the MAGDEBURG Unit, which does not appear to hold any heavy

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weapons. The remainder are known locally as the RATHENOW Unit. These are the troops handling the 122 mm Field Guns M31/37 and 152 mm Medium Gun Howitzers M 37.

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4. (a) SOMMERLAGER(b) Estimated number of occupants:

Approx 5000 all ranks, of whom at least 1000 live in 240 small tents.

(c) Shoulderboards and insignia:

Officers wore gold/red and silver/red and ORs black/red sbds, some with Arty insignia. A small number of SAF troops belonging to the captive observation balloon detachment, and a few troops with black/black sbds belonging to the permanent staff of ALTENGRABOW Engineers Dump were also in evidence.

(d) Weapons and equipment:

25-30 x 160 mm Mortars with ZIS 151 towing lorries;  
20-25 x 122 mm Field Howitzers M 38 and 10-15 x 152 mm Medium Gun Howitzers M 37 with S80 tractors.

(e) Changes:

The number of tents accommodating troops has increased from 50 to approx 250.

## (f) The troops stationed here are referred to locally as the POTSDAM and RATHENOW Units.

5. ROSENKRUG

## (b) Occupied buildings of the former estate of ROSENKRUG and newly erected hutments to the SOUTH of it: MR 106 885 on 1:25000 UTM Grid Sheet 3739.

(c) Estimated number of occupants: Reported to be fully occupied.(d) Shoulderboards and insignia: Red/black and Arty only identified.(e) Weapons and equipment:

An unidentified number of 100 mm A/tk guns and 152 mm Medium Howitzers M 43.

## (f) Troops referred to locally as BRANDENBURG, MAGDEBURG and POTSDAM Units are stationed here. One of the BRANDENBURG units has its higher formation at MAGDEBURG and another at RATHENOW.

6. (a) LAGER III

## (b) Compound with newly erected permanent buildings and tents, SW of ROSENKRUG, approx MR 115 875 on 1:25000 UTM Grid Sheet 3739.

## (c) Only Arty troops have been identified here to date.

## (d) Only 37 mm LAA guns have been identified here.

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7. (a) AA Site WEINBERGE

- (c) Estimated number of occupants: 50 all ranks, living in 6 tents.
- (d) Shoulderboards and insignia: Black/red sbds.
- (e) Weapons and equipment:
- 6 x 37 mm LAA guns dug in in a circle approx 100 m in diameter; 6 ZIS 151s and 1 GAS 63 W/T vehicle with a KNIFE-REST array raised on its roof. Power is supplied by a two-wheeled generator trailer parked some 20 m from the W/T vehicle.

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- (g) This position had been reoccupied by 22 Jun 54.

8. (a) AA Site DOERNITZ

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- (c) Estimated number of occupants: 50 ORs living in 5 tents.
- (d) Shoulderboards and insignia: Black/red sbds.
- (e) Weapons and equipment:
- 6 x 37 mm LAA guns dug in and 6 ZIS 151s.
- (f) This site had been reoccupied by 22 Jun 54.

9. Activity:

- (a) On 24 Jun 54, approx 20 x 37 mm LAA guns, towed by ZIS 151s were carrying out movements and firing exercises in the area to the WEST of the SOMMERLAGER. They were firing at a drogue towed by a conventional 2-engined aircraft. The guns were accompanied by four 6 x 6 APCs with the numbers:

621, 622, 623 and 625.

The VNs of the towing lorries were masked.

- (b) At 0845 hrs on 29 Jun 54, at the junction of tracks in the woods at MR 118 889 on 1:25000 UTM Grid Sheet 3739, six 76.2 mm Field/A-tk guns, towed by Ya 12s, were being used for practice in bringing into firing position and camouflaging. The guns were accompanied by 5 LCVs of various types and approx 60 ORs. One ZIS 5 had VN G7-56-42 and one Ya 12 had the number 53-65.

10. ZIESAR

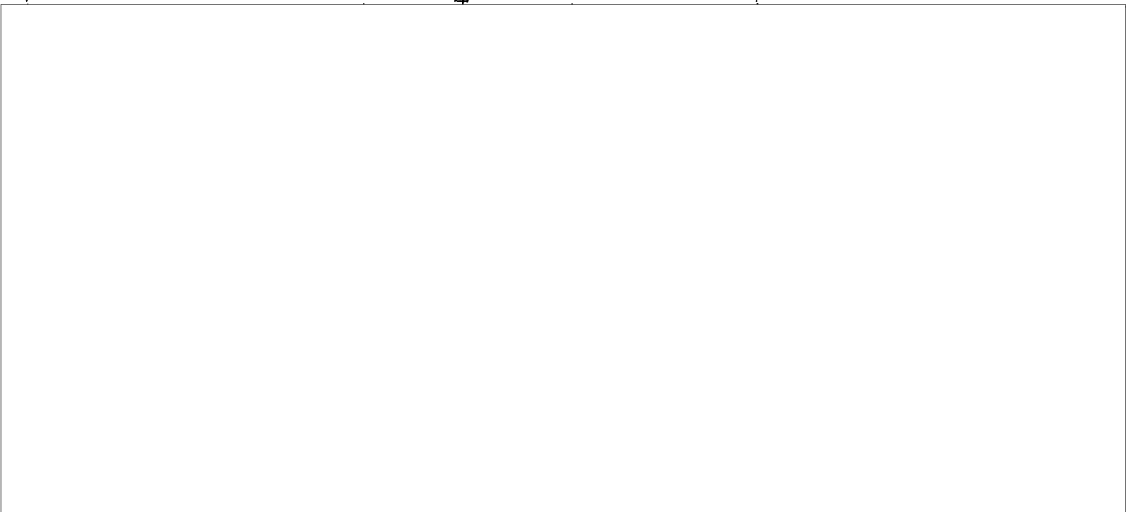
- (a) Troop movements:

- (i) On 2 Jul 54, a mixed column of tanks, APCs, Scout cars, M/cs, lorries and an unusually large proportion of WT vehicles entered ZIESAR, coming from the direction of BUCKAU. The tanks entrained at ZIESAR; the remainder of the column proceeded in a WESTERly direction. The following vehicles belonged to this column:

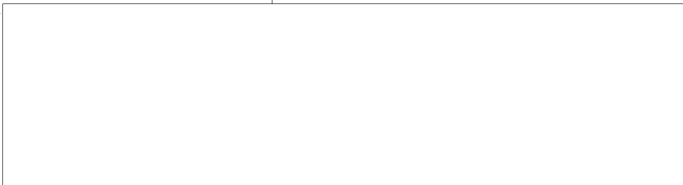
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(ii) At 0900 hrs on 3 Jul 54, a convoy of approx 30 vehicles, manned by troops with black/black sbds, passed through ZIESAR coming from the WEST in the direction of BUCKAU. The vehicles carried timber, ropes and N2P-45 pontoons. [redacted] noted:



Also in the convoy were two buses carrying officers. 50X1-HUM

(b) General traffic

<u>21 Jun 54</u>	[redacted]	ZIS 5 Studebaker Jeep ZIS 5	
<u>23 Jun 54</u>	[redacted]	Studebaker GAS 63 " ZIS 150 ZIS 5 Studebaker " "	
<u>24 Jun 54</u>	[redacted]	"	50X1-HUM
<u>25 Jun 54</u>	[redacted]	GAS 63 Studebaker " ZIS 150 "	
<u>29 Jun 54</u>	[redacted]	ZIS 5 " Driving instruction. Studebaker ZIS 150 " ZIS 5 Driving instruction. Studebaker	
<u>30 Jun 54</u>	[redacted]	LCV with trailer No 0085 loaded with engines and tank spares. ZIS 150 Jeep Driver with lt blue/black sbds. Passenger a Lieutenant with silver/blue sbds.	

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30 Jun 54

contd

LCV

"

" Driving instruction

"

"

2 Jul 54

GAZ 63

ZIS 5

LCV with troops and rations from the  
direction of BRANDENBURG towards  
ALTENGRABOW.

ZIS 5

LCV with tyres and MT spares.

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3 Jul 54

LCV

" ZIS 5 belonging to BUCKNITZ W/shps.

" " from the direction of PAPLITZ  
towards ALTENGRABOW.

"

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